Amendments to the Claims

1, 2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) ~~The actuation assistance apparatus of claim 1,~~ An actuation assistance apparatus for use with pressurized containers that have an axially extending spout actuator, the actuation assistance apparatus comprising:

a base member comprising an aperture portion having an inner periphery sized and configured to engage and slidedly accept the spout actuator; and

a lever portion adapted to provide a lever arm which reduces the actuation load required to actuate the spout actuator, the lever portion comprising a radial extension arm extending radially from the base member and a downward depending arm integrally attached to the radial extension arm, the radial extension arm and downward depending arm adapted such that the downward depending arm extends beyond the radial periphery of the pressurized container;

wherein said radial extension arm includes a top flange and a vertical flange extending radially from said base member, the vertical flange depending from the top flange.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~The actuation assistance apparatus of claim 1,~~ An actuation assistance apparatus for use with pressurized containers that have an axially extending spout actuator, the actuation assistance apparatus comprising:

a base member comprising an aperture portion having an inner periphery sized and configured to engage and slidedly accept the spout actuator; and

a lever portion adapted to provide a lever arm which reduces the actuation load required to actuate the spout actuator, the lever portion comprising a radial extension arm extending radially from the base member and a downward depending arm integrally attached to the radial extension arm, the radial extension arm and downward depending arm adapted such that the downward depending arm extends beyond the radial periphery of the pressurized container;

wherein said inner periphery of said aperture comprises at least one radially projecting protrusion.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~pressurized container assembly~~ actuation assistance apparatus of claim [[2,]] 4 wherein said ~~inner periphery of said cylindrical sleeve comprises at least one~~ radially projecting protrusion is defined by a first discontinuous cylindrical wall of a first diameter and a second discontinuous wall of a second diameter, the first and second cylindrical walls being generally concentric.

6. (Original) The actuation assistance apparatus of claim 4, wherein said at least one radially projecting protrusion comprises at least one bump, ridge, dimple or rib.

7. (Currently Amended) The actuation assistance apparatus of claim [[1,]] 3 wherein said base member and said lever portion are integrally formed in a unitary body.

8-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) ~~The pressurized container assembly of claim 11,~~ A pressurized container assembly comprising:

a pressurized container;

a tilt-action valve for releasing contents from the pressurized container;

a spout actuator adapted such that actuation of the actuator opens the tilt-action valve; and

an actuation assistance apparatus comprising a base member and a lever portion, the base member comprising an aperture portion having an inner periphery sized and configured to engage and slidedly accept the spout actuator; the lever portion comprising a radial extension arm extending radially from the base member and a downward depending arm integrally attached to the radial extension arm, the radial extension arm and downward depending arm adapted such that the downward depending arm extends beyond the radial periphery of the pressurized container;

wherein said radial extension arm includes a top flange and a vertical flange extending radially from said base member, the vertical flange depending from the top flange.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~The pressurized container assembly of claim 11,~~ A pressurized container assembly comprising:

a pressurized container;

a tilt-action valve for releasing contents from the pressurized container;

a spout actuator adapted such that actuation of the actuator opens the tilt-action valve; and

an actuation assistance apparatus comprising a base member and a lever portion, the base member comprising an aperture portion having an inner periphery sized and configured to engage and slidedly accept the spout actuator; the lever portion comprising a radial extension arm extending radially from the base member and a downward depending arm integrally attached to the radial extension arm, the radial extension arm and downward depending arm adapted such that the downward depending arm extends beyond the radial periphery of the pressurized container;

wherein said inner periphery of said aperture comprises at least one radially projecting protrusion.

15. (Currently Amended) The pressurized container assembly of claim [[12,]] 14 wherein said ~~inner periphery of said cylindrical sleeve comprises at least one~~ radially projecting protrusion is defined by a first discontinuous cylindrical wall of a first diameter and a second discontinuous wall of a second diameter, the first and second cylindrical walls being generally concentric.

16. (Currently Amended) The ~~actuation assistance apparatus~~ pressurized container assembly of claim 14 [[,]] wherein said at least one radially projecting protrusion comprises at least one bump, ridge, dimple or rib.

17. (Currently Amended) The pressurized container assembly of claim [[11,]] 13 wherein said base member and said lever portion are integrally formed in a unitary body.

18-24. (Cancelled)